OCTOBER
PAC Newsletter

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAC:



A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our first PAC meeting in September! It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces, as well as lots of new faces joining us for the first time. We're excited for another great year and appreciate everyone who takes the time to get involved and support our school community.



As we get into the busy part of the school year, there's lots happening behind the scenes! We have some delicious lunches and exciting fundraisers planned, all with the goal of supporting our students and making their school experience even better. Be sure to take a few minutes to read through this month's newsletter. There is lots of important information about hot lunch ordering, upcoming fundraisers, important dates and other PAC news. We don't want you to miss out, or realize you missed a deadline while frantically checking your emails at 10 p.m.!



Thank you, as always, for your continued support of the Minnekhada PAC. Whether you attend meetings, participate in fundraisers, volunteer your time or simply help spread the word, every bit makes a difference. We're looking forward to a fantastic year together!

The Minnekhada Middle School PAC invites you to our

PAC MEETINGS

Let your voice be heard!
Our next meeting is on

OCTOBER 19

7:00-8:30pm

Online via Teams.
Watch your email for a link sent out by Ms. Reid.



Meetings will take place on the third Monday of the month.
subject to change, but notice will be given

WHAT IS DPAC?

DPAC stands for District Parent Advisory Council.
Think of it as the “PAC for all the PACs” in a school district.

PAC : represents parents and families at one individual school.
DPAC : brings representatives from the different school PACs together at the school district level.

What does DPAC do?
DPAC gives parents a collective voice on issues that affect students and families across the whole district, rather than just one school.

For example, DPAC may:
-Share information and resources with PACs.
-Bring concerns and ideas from PACs to the school district.
-Provide opportunities for parents from different schools to connect and learn from one another.
-Discuss district wide issues affecting students and families.
-Participate in consultations with the school district on policies, programs, and other matters affecting students.

SUMMARY OF DPAC MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 16

District Updates

- SD43 reported a smooth start to the 2026/27 school year and recognized HR, custodial and maintenance teams for their work preparing schools over the summer.
- Key areas of focus this year include:
  - Attendance
  - Anti-racism
  - Improved communication with families
  - “Together We Are SD43” emails will be sent approximately every other week to help educate families about existing district protocols, including situations such as virus outbreaks and emergencies.
- New SD43/school websites have launched and continue to be updated.
- A potential SD43 mobile app has been discussed; more information may come in the future.

Medical Equipment in Schools

- Emergency medical equipment/supports currently available in schools were discussed for ex. AEDs.
- The possibility of having EpiPens available as general emergency equipment in schools was raised; this is not moving forward at this time.

School Growth & Capital Projects

- Dr. Charles Best Secondary: 12-classroom addition is substantially complete.
- Burke Mountain Secondary: Expected to open September/Fall 2027.
  - SD43 continues to advocate for a middle school in Burke Mountain to address continued growth in the area
- Monty Middle: Rebuild project has moved to tender, with planned completion in Fall 2028.
- Hazel Trembath Elementary: Construction of the replacement school is underway, with planned completion in Fall/Winter 2027

Presentation – Build a Biz Kids

Presenter: Leah Coss - ph.640-313-9996 | e: Leah@BuildaBizKids.com

- Build a Biz Kids is a registered Canadian charity that focuses on developing real-world entrepreneurial skills in children through an at-home program designed for children ages 7–13.
- Programming is broken into manageable modules that children can complete at their own pace while still learning proper business terminology and concepts.
- Classroom programming is also available for teachers, and they may be eligible for support through the Canadian Future-Ready Education Grant. Link in website.
-

Presentation – Digital Literacy & Online Safety

Presenters: Carol Todd & Simon Kwok

- Focused on digital literacy, digital citizenship and online safety.
- The overall message was less about restricting technology and more about teaching children how to navigate and use technology responsibly.
- Key topics included:
  - Digital footprints
  - Online safety
  - Responsible technology use
  - Information vs. disinformation
- SD43 has numerous resources available to parents and families, including guides, links, tools and webinars.
- Parents are encouraged to explore the Digital Literacy and Online Safety resources on the SD43 website and use the resources that are most relevant to their family.

QUESTIONS for Blakeburn DPAC rep Diana Di Fabio?

Email MinnekhadaPAC@gmail.com

DPAC minutes, presentations and monthly ledger can be found on the DPAC SD43 website: https://dpac43.ca/documents/meetings

Municipal Election

VOTE

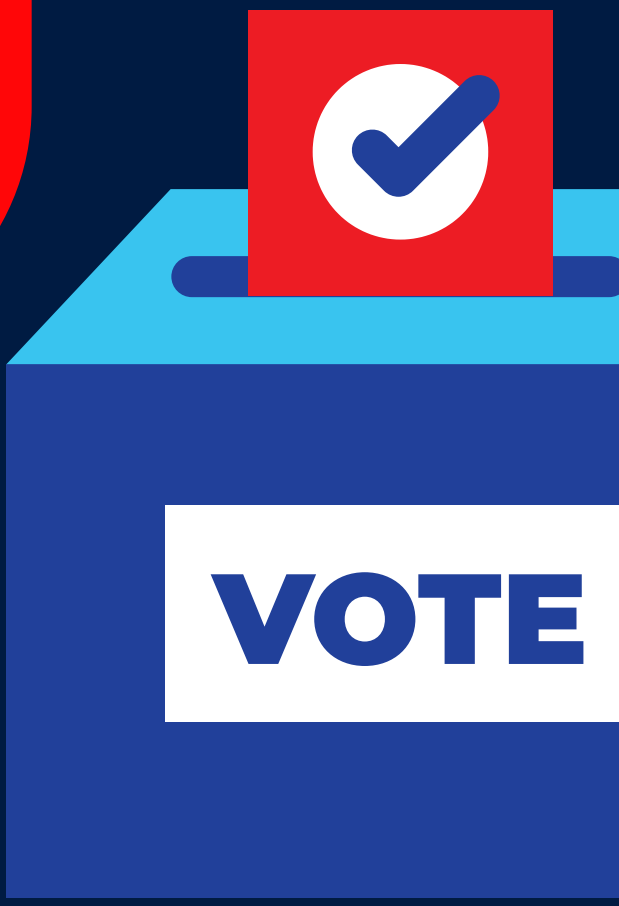
SHAPE OUR COMMUNITY

Your vote is your power. Don't forget to get out and vote in the upcoming municipal election! Your vote matters, including when choosing the SD43 School Trustees who help shape the future of our schools and students.

Do you qualify?

To register you must be:

- ***a Canadian Citizen***
- ***a resident of Port Coquitlam***
- ***18 years or older as of Oct 17***
- ***a BC resident for the past 6 months***



ELECTION DAY

October 17
8am - 8pm

For more information visit these sites:
www.portcoquitlam.ca/election
www.sd43.bc.ca/elections

MINNEKHADA

HOT LUNCH

OCTOBER 14

Domino's Pizza
Cassandra Cake Co

OCTOBER 21

Subway
TCBY

OCTOBER 28

Doughnut Love
Halloween Treat Day

NOVEMBER 4

Papa Leo's Pizza

NOVEMBER 18

Quesada
TCBY

NOVEMBER 25

Red Robin

DECEMBER 9

Freshii

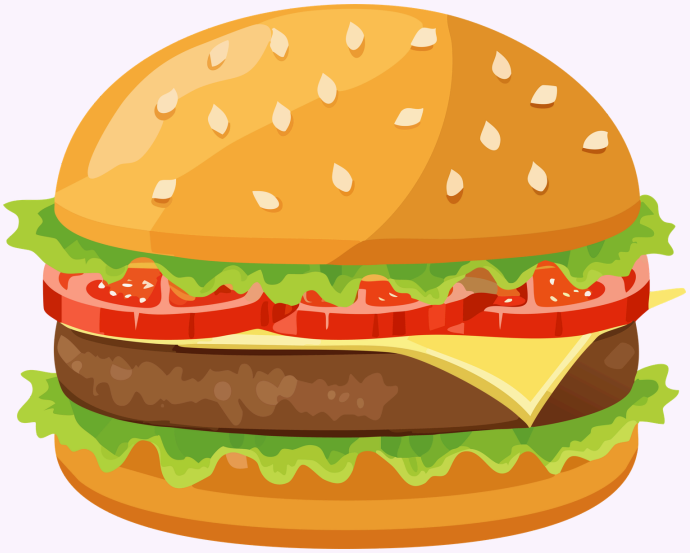
DECEMBER 16

Little Caesers
Cassandra Cake Co



Order at www.munchalunch.com
Ordering opens: SEPTEMBER 21
Ordering Closes: OCTOBER 7 (for Oct 14 & 21 lunch dates)
& OCTOBER 14 for the rest of the term.

Be sure to place your child's orders before the deadline so they don't miss out on their favourite hot lunches.
Late orders **can not** be accepted.



MINNEKHADA

HOT LUNCH

INFORMATION

All orders must be placed through Munchalunch **BEFORE** the deadline. Once the deadline passes we are unable to reopen ordering so you must wait until next term to order.



If your child is absent on hot lunch day please email MinnekhadaPAC @gmail.com by 11am
please incluse the following information:

1. Childs name
2. Teachers name
3. Div #
4. If you would like to pick up your child's order at the office between 1230-230pm or if you prefer to have it donated

If we do not receive an email by 11am, the order will be donated.

Hot lunches are ordered and paid for in advance based on the number of lunches requested. Once orders are placed, the PAC has already committed those funds to the supplier. Because of this, we are unable to get a refund or credit from our food providers when an individual student is absent. Thank you for understanding.

MINNEKHADA SPIRIT WEAR SALE

Show your school pride!

Our school spirit wear collection is here for students, families and teachers. Choose your favorite style and wear your Mustang pride all season long. Orders will be sent home with students at the end of November.

Customized to match our school!

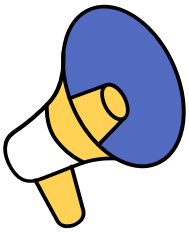


T-shirts, Hoodies, Crewnecks, Hats, More

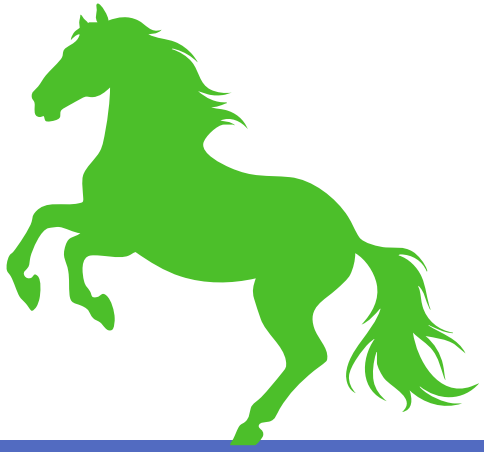
Available in youth and adult sizes

Order by October 23

STARTING AT $20



Gear up. Be proud. Represent!



https://store.passionsports.ca/minnekhada2026/shop/home

Minnekhada

Water Bottle

Only
$10 each

Available to purchase on Munchalunch now!

Orders close: October 23 at midnight

Distribution: mid November



Minnekhada Middle School

Ongoing Fundraisers

Cob's Bread

Location:
105-2020 Oxford Connector,
Port Coquitlam

How to Contribute:
Just mention Minnekhada Middle School at checkout and Cobs Bread Oxford Market will donate 5% of your purchase to the school.

PoCo Return-It Account

Location:
2577 Kingsway Avenue, Port Coquitlam

Account Number:
604 942 0261

How to Contribute:
Collect your containers in clear plastic bags, no need to sort them! Then head to the Express kiosk and use the account number above to print a label for each bag and place them in the bin.

Thank you for supporting the PAC fundraisers.

HOW TO CONTACT THE PAC

To ensure PAC messages reach all families, our main form of communication will be updates and notices via the Principal's and School's email.

We also have a more informal private PAC Facebook Page that we encourage you to join!

And if you ever need to reach us, you can email us!

@MinnekhadaPac

MinnekhadaPAC@gmail.com